

AIBS: Bill for 1959-61 Less Than NSF Original Estimate

The final accounting on the indebtedness of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) is yet to come, but for the years 1959 through 1961, it turns out to be considerably less than was at first indicated by the National Science Foundation (*Science*, 25 Jan.).

Originally, on the basis of a "selective sampling," the shortage for that period was placed at \$331,570; NSF has now concluded that the figure should be \$192,850, and that \$30,919 of the initial estimate should be included under 1962 operations, which have not yet been completely audited. This left a total indebtedness through 1961 of \$300,651, consisting of \$143,615 in publications proceeds that were not held in escrow, as required by NSF regulations; \$108,637 in "excess" overhead charges; \$28,846 in interest collected on NSF funds; and \$19,553 in "non-acceptable charges," including charges for travel and entertainment.

Following negotiations between the two organizations, NSF agreed to drop the overhead claim, and AIBS agreed to pay the balance, including the amount for proceeds from publications, which even NSF had conceded was subject to dispute. The rationale for this arrangement, according to NSF officials, was that AIBS appeared to be on firm ground in its claim that the agreements—or, as they are formally called, letters of understanding—governing overhead were sufficiently vague to justify AIBS's conclusion that it was entitled to a 15-percent allowance (NSF had originally contended that the figure was around 10 percent). On the matter of proceeds from publications, it was decided that bookkeeping complexities made it extremely difficult to determine how much legitimately belonged to each organization. AIBS agreed to pay the entire amount.

The remainder of the charges are unchanged. AIBS has already paid \$100,000 toward the total and has agreed to pay the balance by 15 December.

Work is now proceeding on the 1962 audit, which appears likely to result in a large bill, since that year was the biggest in AIBS history.

NSF officials emphasize that they cleared the agreement with the Justice Department and with the General Accounting Office, Congress's financial

watchdog, before making it final. What they are not eager to acknowledge is that NSF is profoundly embarrassed by the whole AIBS mess and is eager to arrive quickly at an understanding that will keep AIBS alive while enabling NSF to recoup a substantial part of the government's losses.—D.S.G.

NIH: House Plans New Hearings

Representative L. H. Fountain's Government Operations Subcommittee is currently gathering material for another round of hearings on the administrative practices of the National Institutes of Health. Fountain, Democrat of North Carolina, has not set a date for the hearings, but it seems likely they will be held toward the end of April. Following previous hearings and two critical reports by the Committee, NIH recently established tighter fiscal control over its grantees. According to the committee staff, the new hearings will be directed toward examining "policies and procedures" on grants and contracts.—D.S.G.

Announcements

An information center on high-purity inorganic research materials has been formed at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. It will make available current listings of and needs for materials of specified purity and crystalline form, as well as information on special chemical and physical methods for determination of crystal quality and purity. A periodic bulletin will be issued.

Users will provide most of the information recorded by the center. J. W. Cleland or T. F. Connolly, ORNL, P.O. Box X, Oak Ridge, Tenn.)

Applications are being accepted by the Teachers College of Columbia University for teaching positions in **East African secondary schools**. Teachers are needed in physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, English, history, and geography. Both experienced teachers and those with no previous work in education are eligible to apply.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens, and graduates of accredited colleges. Salaries start at \$3200 for persons with no teaching experience. (Teachers for East Africa, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York 27, N.Y.)

The American Board of Clinical Chemistry announces that scientists may be certified in **toxicological chemistry** without having to qualify for clinical chemistry certification. Certification in toxicological chemistry is based on a combination of professional and educational qualifications in written and/or oral examinations. Persons whose other qualifications are deemed satisfactory and who file their applications before 30 June 1965, may obtain certification without taking the examinations, at the discretion of the Board. (K. M. Dubowski, ABCC, University of Oklahoma, School of Medicine, Oklahoma City 4)

Scientists in the News

Eugene B. Skolnikoff, assistant to presidential science advisers since 1958, has become a research associate in political science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

From the Institute of Metals, London: **G. L. Bailey**, director of the British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association, London, has received the Institute of Metals (Platinum) medal. **B. A. Bilby**, professor of theoretical metallurgy, University of Sheffield, is the recipient of the Rosenhain medal.

Fred R. Cagle, zoology professor and former coordinator of research at Tulane University, has become vice president of the university.

Arthur L. Friedberg, professor of ceramic engineering at the University of Illinois, has been named head of the department, effective in September, upon the retirement of **A. I. Andrews**.

B. G. Ballard, vice president of the National Research Council of Canada, has been appointed president of the organization; he will be succeeded as vice president by Léo Marion, formerly senior director.

Guenther Stotzky, formerly with the United Fruit Co., has become chairman of the research department of the Kitchawan Research Laboratory, Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Karl Folkers, former vice president for exploratory research at Merck & Co., Rahway, N.J., has been named president, Stanford Research Institute.